

1. A method of testing the authenticity of a document provided with at least one optico-diffractively effective metallized security indicium, comprising the steps of:

storing a signal representative of the security indicium of a genuine
5 document;

moving a document along a predetermined path;

applying a voltage to the security indicium by capacitive coupling;

measuring the voltage in the security indicium and deriving a signal
representative of the measured voltage; and

10 comparing the measured voltage signal against the stored signal.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the movement of the document in response to a difference between the stored signal and the measured voltage signal.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of discontinuous metallization segments.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of metallization segments of different thicknesses.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security
25 indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of discontinuous metallization segments with interspersed elements responsive to electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined frequency range.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is ultra
30 violet light and the responsive elements comprise a dye fluorescing when

irradiated by ultra violet light.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the responsive elements comprise a light absorbing substance.

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